

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Office Action mailed April 21, 2004, Applicants amend their application and request reconsideration in view of the amendments and the following remarks. In this amendment, claims 1, 4 and 7-9 were amended, claims 3, 5-6 and 10-28 were cancelled without prejudice and claims 29-37 have been added so that claims 1, 2, 4, 7-9 and 29-37 are currently pending. No new matter has been introduced.

The abstract of the disclosure was objected to for a minor informality. Accordingly, Applicants have amended the abstract to correct the informality.

Claim 6 was objected to for a minor informality that has been corrected.

Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101. Applicants have cancelled claim 10 without prejudice.


Claims 1-4, 26 and 28 were rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,306,164. Claims 1, 3-5, 9, 11, 12, 13-15, 24 and 26-28 were rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,152,956. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Examiner indicated that claims 6-8, 16-23 and 25 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicants have incorporated the elements of claims 6, 5 and 3 with claim 1 and the elements of claims 16, 14 and 11 into claim 1 to create new claim 29.

Serial No.10/041,116

A favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted;

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